

Testimony for Public Hearing
Appropriations Committee
March 20, 2013

Debbie Gould
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Seymour, CT 06483

Ladies and Gentleman,

My name is Debbie Gould RN, MSN, FCNS, Pediatric SCS, APRN. I work for Acuity House Call and work as a Nurse Practitioner performing house calls to individuals finding it difficult to get to an office visits. Acuity services the following vulnerable populations 1. Critically complex elderly clients 2. Clients recovering from psychiatric illness 3. Medically complex children.

I am here to urge you to support **H.B. No. 6391 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES** Which states that Nurse Practitioners May collaborate rather than shall.

Barriers to Collaboration are as follows:

1. Acuity visits often happen after hours. It becomes very difficult to collaborate with an on-call physician who is not familiar with a client. This does not promote optimal outcomes. An MD who is not familiar with a client will usually send them to the Emergency Room unnecessarily.
2. Another challenge is some patients I see have not seen an MD in several years due to their inability to get out of the house and there is no one available to collaborate with. Several times, I have walked into a patient's home and had to provide emergency care for a heart attack or some other emergency and to stop and call a collaborating physician takes time and does not improve the outcome.
3. The fact of the matter is that my patients have better outcomes because of my involvement. Patients often are more willing to be compliant with care when the family is involved. Children of elderly clients often work full-time jobs and cannot take time off of work to make it to MD appointments during office hours. Acuity accommodates this by seeing clients on the weekend and after hours. Most collaborating physicians are not readily available on the weekend. Sometimes a call back can take hours. This wastes valuable time and in many instances impedes appropriate care.
4. APRN House Call has been able to address issues with heart failure patients with frequent hospitalizations and has kept them out of the hospital for an extended period of time.

5. The House call has also addressed concerns of families that might not be noticed in an office visit such as barriers in the home. I provide education in the home relevant to their setting and refer to collaborative services as necessary.
6. I provide a Holistic and Preventative Approach to quality care and traditional Allopathic Medicine may not agree with this approach but it has been proven to work.

Nurse Practitioners are well prepared to make independent decisions and although they collaborate intuitively, it should not be mandated to meet a regulation.

Thank You for your time and consideration of this Bill. It is imperative that you vote yes to improve patient access to care and provide better outcomes in our vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Debbie Gould RN, MSN, FCNS, APRN